

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educators)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Certificate of Zeke Parson)	
)	
Certificate # 214927)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 9, 2003. On October 24, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent Mr. Zeke Parson a notice of his right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educators certificate (certificate) by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Parson received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Mr. Parson did not request a hearing during the period allowed by law, and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, which was undisputed by Mr. Parson, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Parson's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Parson holds a valid certificate, and has less than one month of teaching experience. Mr. Parson was under contract with Greenville County School District (District) for the 2003-2004 school year, as a sixth grade math teacher at Hughes Academy. On August 26, 2003, the principal of Hughes Academy received a letter of resignation from Mr. Parson, effective that day. In his letter Mr. Parson indicated he was unable to meet the challenges of his position. The District wrote Mr. Parson on August 29, 2003 and stated that they would recommend a one-year suspension of his certificate to the State Board.

On October 14, 2003, the Board of Trustees of the School District of Greenville County voted to file a complaint with the State Board seeking the

suspension of Mr. Parson's certificate for breach of contract. The complaint was filed on October 29, 2003.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (1990). Unprofessional conduct includes breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is conclusive evidence supporting its decision to suspend Mr. Parson's certificate # 214927 for a period of one year from August 26, 2003 through August 27, 2004, on the ground of unprofessional conduct due to breach of contract. At the end of the suspension period if he wants his certificate reinstated, Mr. Parson may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Education and Certification of the Department.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

December 9, 2003